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The National Benchmark Tests (NBTs) at Stellenbosch University 2018-intake

1. What are the NBTs?

The National Benchmark Tests (NBTs) are an assessment test for first-year applicants to higher education. The NBTs are designed to measure a writer's ability to transfer understanding of academic literacy (language skills), quantitative literacy (numerical skills) and Mathematics to the demands of tertiary (higher education) coursework.

There are two tests. The AQL combines Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy in one multiple-choice test. There are seven timed sections, requiring three hours writing time. The second test is Mathematics (MAT), which is also multiple-choice with three hours allowed.

The NBTs are managed by the *Alternative Admissions Research Project* at the University of Cape Town. More information on the NBTs are available on their website at www.nbt.ac.za.

2. Who needs to write the NBTs for Stellenbosch University (SU)

It is compulsory for ALL prospective first-year applicants to SU, regardless of the matriculation year, studies at another higher education institution, or examination system followed, to write the National Benchmark Tests. The only applicants who need NOT write the NBTs are students applying for admission to a second university degree as well as students with a B Tech degree.

3. How do I register to write the NBTs?

Registration to write the NBTs is done through the internet on www.nbt.ac.za. Note that you will need your official South African ID or foreign passport in order to complete the registration process.

Test fees are non-refundable and can be paid at any EasyPay point. For more information on the fees, please visit www.nbt.ac.za

Registration is valid only for the specific date and location you select and must be done at least three weeks prior to the desired test date. If you do not have access to the internet, or encounter problems during the registration process, you may either call 021-650-3523 or send an e-mail to nbt@uct.ac.za for assistance.

4. How will the NBT results be used at Stellenbosch University for admission in 2018?

The NBT results will be used for both selection and placement purposes at Stellenbosch University:

Faculty or school system	Specification
Medicine and Health Sciences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The NBT results will be used for selection purposes for all programmes in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, as well as for placement on the extended degree programmes of MB,ChB and BSc in PhysiotherapyTo be considered for these programmes, applicants need to write the NBTs by 1 July 2017 at the latest.
Law programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The NBT results will also be used for selection purposes for all programmes in Law. This includes the following programmes: BA (Law), BComm (Law), BAccLLB and LLB (four-year programme).Applicants must write the NBT's before the end of June in order for the Faculty of Law to take the results into consideration when compiling their selection lists.
Arts and Social Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The NBT results will be used for additional information with regards to placement in extended degree programmes, as well as decisions regarding transfers from the extended degree programmes to main stream programmes.
Engineering, AgriSciences, Science, Theology and Economic and Management Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The NBT results will be used for additional information in border case applications for either mainstream or extended degree applications.
School of Tomorrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The NBT results will also be used for the selection and placement of School of Tomorrow candidates.

For more information about the use of NBT results, refer to the respective faculties' selection guidelines on www.maties.com (go to "Admission" and "Faculty selection guidelines").

5. Stellenbosch University specific NBT requirements

- For application to Stellenbosch University **you can write the NBTs twice** in one application year, but it is the prerogative of the faculty you apply to, to determine which results will be taken into account.
- It is compulsory for all applicants to write the AQL test (Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy). If the programme you apply for requires **Mathematics** as an admission requirement, you need to also write the Mathematics test (MAT) regardless of what year you matriculated in.
- The NBTs are available in both Afrikaans and English. For study at SU, you can write the NBTs in **Afrikaans OR English**. During the registration process for your test session, you will have the opportunity to indicate which of these two languages you prefer to write in.
- NBT results are valid for **three intake years**. If you wrote the NBTs in 2015 or 2016 you need NOT write NBTs again for the 2018 intake year. If you wrote the NBTs in the **previous two application years**, you need to check whether your marks are available on www.maties.com.
- If you cannot write the NBTs in the year before your studies (if, for example, you are overseas), you may write them in January before the start of the academic year. Bear in mind, however, that you do expose yourself to specific risks and practical implications in terms of placement and selection if you write the tests at such a late stage. It is therefore strongly recommended that you write the NBTs in your matric year.
- Approximately four weeks after the test session, you can **obtain your results** from the official NBT website (www.nbt.ac.za), by logging in with your ID.

- Remember, It is your responsibility to check whether your **NBT results have been loaded** on www.maties.com. If not loaded, send your NBT test number, ID number, SU student number and official results to the SU Client Services Centre, at e-mail info@sun.ac.za. SU will then verify these results for correctness and upload them on the system.
- Dependent on the required test combination, the **NBT average** is calculated as follows:
 - For programmes that do not require Mathematics:** The average performance in the Academic Literacy test component and the Quantitative Literacy test component
 - For programmes that require Mathematics:** The average performance in the Academic Literacy test component, the Quantitative Literacy test component and the Mathematics test
 - If you failed to write one of the required tests, it will be taken into account as a zero mark.

6. Test dates and venues

You may write the NBTs at any test center; all universities to which you apply can receive your results. It is your choice on which date and at which centre you want to write the test(s), but take note that certain selection programmes require you to write before a certain date. The COMPLETE LIST WITH TEST DATES AND VENUES for 2016 is available at www.nbt.ac.za and is regularly adjusted and updated. Take note that it is your responsibility to verify the dates on www.nbt.ac.za before making your booking.

WHEN CAN I WRITE?

Registration for all NBT sessions opens 1 April 2017.

NBT Test Dates	Register	Last Day to Pay Fees	Results Available to Institutions	Results Available to Writers
20-May-17	02-May-17	08-May-17	12-Jun-17	19-Jun-17
03-Jun-17	14-May-17	21-May-17	26-Jun-17	03-Jul-17
*04-Jun-17	14-May-17	21-May-17	26-Jun-17	03-Jul-17
17-Jun-17	28-May-17	04-Jun-17	10-Jul-17	17-Jul-17
*18-Jun-17	28-May-17	04-Jun-17	10-Jul-17	17-Jul-17
24-Jun-17	04-Jun-17	11-Jun-17	17-Jul-17	24-Jul-17
**30-Jun-17	11-Jun-17	18-Jun-17	24-Jul-17	31-Jul-17
01-Jul-17	11-Jun-17	18-Jun-17	24-Jul-17	31-Jul-17
15-Jul-17	25-Jun-17	02-Jul-17	07-Aug-17	14-Aug-17
*16-Jul-17	25-Jun-17	02-Jul-17	07-Aug-17	14-Aug-17
29-Jul-17	09-Jul-17	16-Jul-17	21-Aug-17	28-Aug-17
12-Aug-17	23-Jul-17	30-Jul-17	04-Sep-17	11-Sep-17
*13-Aug-17	23-Jul-17	30-Jul-17	04-Sep-17	11-Sep-17
26-Aug-17	06-Aug-17	13-Aug-17	18-Sep-17	26-Sep-17
9-Sep-17	20-Aug-17	27-Aug-17	02-Oct-17	09-Oct-17
16-Sep-17	27-Aug-17	03-Sep-17	09-Oct-17	16-Oct-17
30-Sep-17	10-Sep-17	17-Sep-17	23-Oct-17	30-Oct-17
07-Oct-17	17-Sep-17	24-Sep-17	30-Oct-17	06-Nov-17
08-Oct-17	17-Sep-17	24-Sep-17	30-Oct-17	06-Nov-17
14-Oct-17	30-Sep-17	01-Oct-17	06-Nov-17	13-Nov-17
25-Nov-17	05-Nov-17	12-Nov-17	19-Nov-17	13-Dec-17

02-Dec-17	12-Nov-17	19-Nov-17	18-Dec-17	18-Dec-17
*03 Dec-17	12-Nov-17	19-Nov-17	18-Dec-17	18-Dec-17
**05-Jan-18	17-Dec-17	17-Dec-17	29-Jan-18	05-Feb-18
06-Jan-18	17-Dec-17	17-Dec-17	29-Jan-18	05-Feb-18
*Sunday test session				
**Friday test session				
WHAT DOES IT COST?				
AQL: R80 AQL & MAT: R160 RE-MARK: R250				

Please note: Students **who live abroad** (excluding Namibia) and are writing an **international final year exam** will be able to write the NBTs in the week when all first-years arrive in Stellenbosch in 2017.

7. What time are the tests and what must I bring with me?

The AQL is written in the morning (3 hours writing time), and writers must be at the test venue by 07:30. The MAT is written in the afternoon on the same day, with a short lunch break between the two tests. The MAT has 3 hours writing time.

On the morning of the tests, you must bring:

- Your ID Book, passport, or certified receipt of application for South African ID
- Your registration letter and EasyPay proof of payment (without this you will not be allowed to write the NBTs)
- Two HB pencils, an eraser, and a pencil sharpener.
- Lunch and water, if you are writing both tests

Do not bring calculators, rulers or dictionaries.

8. Enquiries

For enquiries about the writing of the NBTs and release of NBT results	For enquiries about the NBT results at SU
NBT Client Services Centre (University of Cape Town) Telephone: 021 650 3523 Website: www.nbt.ac.za	SU Client Services Centre (Stellenbosch University) Telephone: 021 808 9111 Website: www.maties.com E-mail: info@sun.ac.za